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THE RUNNING DOGS OF BUDDHA

i.

Buddha and the Viet Cong

The idiot in the Zen monastery made his entrance in the midst of a discussion between the Zen master and his disciples. He told them he had found something funny in the roadway. They ignored him and went on with their discussion.

"How will the Buddha provide during the long winter?" asked the youngest disciple. The Zen master was about to answer, when the idiot rolled a grenade into the middle of the monks. "He has given us bad coconuts," said the idiot. Fortunately, the grenade did not go off and the Zen master laughed heartily.

"The idiot has Zen wisdom," he said. "Now do you still fear the cold winter?" he asked his disciples.

After they had picked themselves up from the four corners of the room, the monks agreed that winter was no longer a major concern. The idiot was given a banquet and the Zen master gave him a monk's robe.

ii.

The Governor and the Poet

"We need to work with the artist," said the governor to the poet. He had gone to the Sierras to seek out the poet's Buddha-wisdom.

"What is the true nature of government?" asked the poet.

"The true nature of government is ineffective," said the governor. "What is the true nature of the artist?"

"The true nature of the artist," said the poet, "is isolated."

"What do you suggest we do?" asked the governor.

The poet thought for a minute. He thought deep thoughts and called upon his Buddha-wisdom. "Give them all an office and a secretary," he replied.

"I will do that for certain," said the governor. "I will give them an office and a secretary. Then they will no longer be isolated."

Saying that, each man rolled up his mat and bowed. Then they went off into separate sectors of the Sierras impressed with their own wisdom.

iii.

The Buddha Meets Lenin

"What I have done can be proven scientifically," said Lenin to the Buddha. "It is the active implementation of dialectical materialism."

"The material needs then are everything?" asked the Buddha.

"Yes," Lenin replied. "Idealism dies a hard death."

At that point Lenin had a massive stroke and the Buddha went away sad. "The mind is a fragile machine," he told Cinca.

Cinca did not say anything, but he thought to himself, "Anything built in one generation should be torn down by the next."

iv.

Buddha Meets Camus

"Why is it you worship death?" asked the Buddha.

"Why is it you offer benevolence and peace and the world is filled with misery?" Camus replied.

"It is because man does not have the Buddha nature," replied the holy one.

"It is because man never will have the Buddha nature that I worship death," Camus answered.

v.

Art of the Chocolate Buddha

"If you do not abstain from eating meat," said the Zen master, "you will not reach satori." Then he gave to each of his disciples a chocolate replica of the divine Buddha.

"I guess we are not so smart," whispered one of the students. "He knows we are sneaking in hamburgers."

vi.

How Woody Showed Buddha-Wisdom

When Woody was a little boy, his mother asked him what he wanted to be. "I want to play piano at Carnegie Hall," he said.

"You can't do that," his mother yelled. "I can't afford a piano."

"How about if I play a violin then?"

"Still too expensive," she said.

"All right then, I'll be a member of the KKK."

"Look," said Woody's mother, "I'll buy you a pencil and you can be a writer."

"Ok," said Woody, "but it has to have a very sensuous eraser."

-- Ben Pleasants

Beverly Hills CA

FOUR AFTER THE SANSKRIT

i

Dearest, when we were introduced
& became lovers
everyone approved.

& when we exchanged vows
how delighted they all were.
& how jubilant
when our first child was born.
But now that we